


Quote

VOL. 3

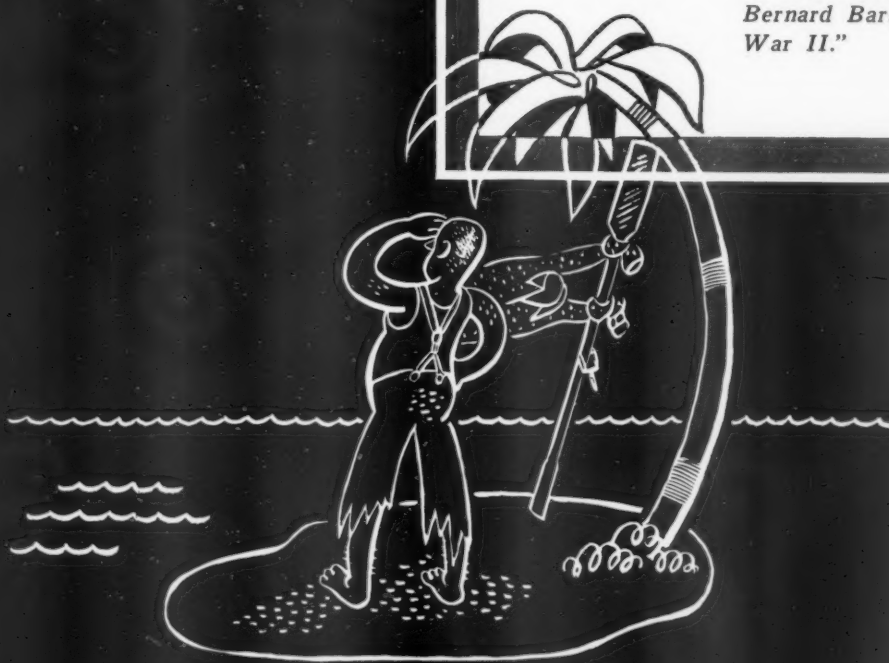
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, JANUARY 19, 1942

NO. 3



"We cannot compromise this demand for all-out production . . . just because someone's toes are being stepped on . . . We can't let one worker or one machine be employed making goods for civilians unless those goods are things the country absolutely has to have . . . We have just one job to do—to make enough war materials to lick Hitler and the Japs, and to do it in the shortest time."—

DONALD NELSON, "*The Bernard Baruch of World War II.*"



For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned*

WORLD WEEK

Since outbreak of war in Pacific, Americans have been kidding themselves on installment plan. QUORE has sought to give realistic background and guide your thinking. Until United Nations have on-the-spot air superiority and can engage Japanese at points of their own choosing, situation will not improve. We fear that day is not as near as some spokesmen intimate.

Because of great distances involved, this Pacific war will be won in the air. United Nations can and will gain control. Japan can hardly have more than 6,500 aircraft, and although advantaged by German technicians and probably some German machinery, her output has been estimated at about 300 planes a month—a mere fraction of required replacements, in all-out war.

Meanwhile, Japan makes time tell. Week's developments lend support to our theory that Japan may plan to isolate Singapore rather than attempt direct attack. This would be logical, but Japanese mind may not work that way. If militarists see loss of face in isolation tactics, they may try to conquer British stronghold, while continuing efforts to take principal islands of Dutch Indies.

Gen'l MacArthur's delaying tactics in Philippines are of great value. He has proved superiority of American men and machines, but is being overcome by sheer force of numbers. As an observer commented: "An American is equal to 10 Japs; but unfortunately there are 11 Japanese."

Gen'l Wavell may be able to hold Java indefinitely, but it looks now as though Australia will be principal concentration point for allied forces. Only slightly smaller than Continental U. S., it affords ample inland security for huge airfields.

... — Even with announced increase of synthetic plants (an anticipated development) we don't expect much rubber for average drive-to-the-office-and-park-it motorist. As we've said before, American military needs will be met; but remember that these needs will increase astoundingly. There'll be gradual liberalizing as new plants produce, and guayule yield increases, but pleasure motorists shouldn't count on new tires (except possibly from reclaimed rubber) this year or next.

RUSSIA: We have been criticised for what one correspondent terms our "pessimistic note" on Russian advances. We've tried to be realistic—neither pessimistic nor optimistic. Sec'y Knox this week said substantially what we've been pointing out for weeks: German retreat is not a rout; Russian advances, though potentially important, are relatively small; Germany still has a great fighting machine.

We regard Russian contribution as most important in recent months. Aside from British gains in Libya

Quote prophesies . . .

MALTA: An all-out attack? Maybe. But Germans have been pretty obvious in pointing that way. We still think Turkey a better bet for early action.

S. AMERICA: Argentina will not break with Germany, or come in on hostile declaration now. Look for strong declaration of solidarity with all, or nearly all countries except Argentina on dotted line.

PRICE CONTROL: Wickard not easy to handle. He and Roosevelt may part over basic food production policies, but not now. Congress will "give" on issue of dual control; President will get substantially what he wants. Look for new Price Administrator. Henderson to be used elsewhere.

(which we regretfully view as not too conclusive) this is only current bright spot. Grows more promising daily. Siege of Leningrad is broken, with food trains in this week. With Reds now on Finnish soil there's at least possibility of opening new front in Norway, come Spring. If we can cut off shipments of iron ore from that country, it will do much to cripple Nazi production.

PRODUCTION: If President really means to give Nelson authority, it is heartening portent. First big job may be conversion of auto industry, where management and labor are in deadlock over basic policies. Knudsen sides with management; Hillman with labor. Nelson is tough realist who has fought Odlum plan to set aside small percentage of strategic materials to keep little non-defense plants operating. Such plants can hope for little from him unless and until they can adjust to defense production.

CHINA: Don't overlook great job being done by Chiang Kai-Shek. China is "the Russia of the Pacific." Here is United Nations great reservoir of manpower. When she can be properly implemented China may well prove deciding factor in Far East conflict.

... — Subs off our East coast may fulfill Hitler promise to "strike the first blow."

Harold Henderson

Publisher.

Quote

"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted."—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"Events of national or international importance always seem to bring out the worst in songwriters."—LEONARD JOY, Recording Manager, RCA-Victor.

"National unity is okay, but political unity we should not have. You can't preserve a nation with political unity."—CLARENCE BUDINGTON, KELLAND, newly appointed Publicity Chairman, Republican Party.

"The day is past when employers may compete with the army for physically-fit men. . . . Eventually, the only labor supply may be women."—Lt.-Col. JOSEPH F. BATTLE, addressing Draft Occupational Advisors at Chicago.

"Here we are twittering like women again . . . Can't we women as a group put a little thought into what this war will mean to us ultimately, instead of merely twittering?"—Author FANNIE HURST.

"Gentleman would like to meet attractive young lady with four good tires."—Ad in San Diego newspaper.

"We have stood for liberal education and pure research. What the country must have now is vocational training and applied research."—Pres. R. M. HUTCHINS, U. of Chicago.

"The main—really the only—objective of civil defense is the protection of lives and property. These knitting, gardening and musical projects interfere with the main effort."—Dr. JAMES V. SPARKS, an American Dentist, member of the French Council of Defense, and organizer of American Volunteer Ambulance Corps in France.

"May we
Quote
you on that?"

"This war cannot be won with spare change."—HENRY MORGENTHAU, Sec'y of the Treasury.

"War is like marriage for unbalanced people. It gives them something new to think about. It is a 'psychiatric catharsis' for people who have never met reality and who need a good jolt."—Dr. J. L. MORENO, New York Psychiatrist.

"While you shout with joy over killing a few thousand at Pearl Harbor, you will be kept from knowing that Chinese forces have killed ten times as many of your brothers at Changsha."—Sen. ELBERT D. THOMAS, a former missionary, speaking in Japanese, to Japanese, via short wave.

"I don't think we'll have much use for a new church building unless the U. S. wins this war. So I suggest that the church organ and building fund (\$1,085.85) be used to purchase defense bonds."—Rev. C. B. ATKINSON, First Baptist Church, Sullivan, Ind.

"When Uncle Sam hands out a million uniforms, he ain't just trying them on for size."—EDDIE CANTOR, Radio Broadcast.

"I've beaten every Jap I've ever wrestled and I can beat some more."—"MAN MOUNTAIN" DEAN, on enlisting in Army.

"The more I see of man working by himself, the more I know why the world is in such a mess. Unless, after the war . . . Europe hands over some of its tasks to women, it will go from one mess to another mess."—LADY ASTOR, addressing a New Year's party attended only by women.

"I can't cross a picket line—fair or unfair."—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, refusing to attend picketed performance of play, "In Time to Come."

"If there is no referee at a prize fight, the man who puts on brass knuckles will win. And the same is true in the industrial game."—THURMAN ARNOLD, Assistant Attorney-General.

"There are so many 'anti' campaigns today, a guy with a good 'for' movement would clean up."—FRED ALLEN.

"I don't want any favors . . . and I am quite sure the navy will take care of that."—PHILIP WILLKIE, son of Wendell Willkie, enrolling for service.

"The United States navy is not idle, but I would not be frank if I led you to expect an early conclusive showdown with the Japanese navy."—FRANK KNOX, Sec'y of Navy, addressing a conference of Mayors.

"I do not subscribe to or support, directly or indirectly, any agitation which would promote antagonism against my Jewish fellow citizens."—HENRY FORD.

Quote is issued weekly by QUOTE SERVICE. Maxwell Droke, Publisher. Business and Editorial Offices: Droke House, 1014 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Subscription rates \$3.50 per year in advance, in United States and Possessions. Foreign \$5.00 per year. Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office at Indianapolis, Indiana, under Act of March 3, 1879. QUOTE uses no original manuscripts, and does not accept advertising. Volume 3, Number 3.

AIR RAIDS—Co-operation

Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety has issued air raid instructions calling for emergency breakdown of the legendary reserve of the Cabots, Lodges and Lowells:

"Remember that everyone will help during a raid and that you will not need an introduction to seek shelter from a householder or in a business building."—AP dispatch.

AMERICANISM

After Carl Sandburg's six volumes of Lincoln were published someone once commented in his presence that the book was "so very American."

"Yes," Sandburg agreed. "It's a book about a man whose mother could not sign her name, written by a man whose father could not sign his. Perhaps that could happen only in America."—KARL DETZER, *Carl Sandburg*. (Harcourt, Brace, \$2).

CENSORSHIP

The *Denver Post* conducts a "Poetry Up to Date" column, recently containing the following timely specimen: The boy stood on the (censored) deck, Whence all but he (deleted). (This message gives out shipping news and cannot be completed).

" "

A Cologne family received news that their son, a pilot, had been killed over England.

They arranged a requiem mass, but, secretly listening to the B.B.C., they heard their son was a prisoner in England.

Fearing they would be suspected of having listened to the B.B.C. if they cancelled the mass, they attended. But nobody else was there—not even the priest.—*London Opinion*.

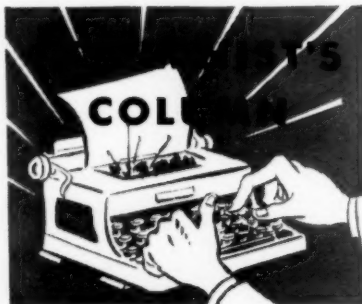
CHARITY—Ingenious

Persons invited to a dinner were met at the door by their hostess, escorted to a scales where they were weighed, notified that they were to be weighed again immediately after eating.

"Because," said the enterprising hostess, "I shall ask you to contribute 5 cents to the Red Cross for every pound gained from the dinner you eat here."—AP dispatch, 12-31-'41.

CONSCIENTIOUS**OBJECTORS—Converted**

Edgar T. Thornhill, 27, of Paducah, Ky., brought to the U. S. marshal's office on a charge of failing to report an address change to his selective

**Civilian Defense**

By FRANK R. KENT

The announced reorganization of OCD is not real; it is phoney. Unable to grapple the problem in a forthright manner, Mr. Roosevelt again has temporized, compromised, conciliated. The result is an arrangement not satisfactory to anyone, and which requires unreasonable optimism to believe will function well.

It is typical of the way Mr. Roosevelt operates. When an agency bogs down, the President does not clean it up and start over. Instead, his formula is to impose a new board on the original one, shuffle things around a bit. If he brings in new men, he keeps the old ones, too. Having done that, he assumes the situation is straightened out. But all he has done is to increase confusion and cost.

The President himself has said that the real weakness of the New Deal lay in its administration. He should know, and certainly there is ample proof. He and his aids have gone on the principle that a speech made, a law passed and a board created, meant an objective achieved.

The appointment of Mayor LaGuardia, and the Mayor's appointment of Mrs. Roosevelt put in charge of Civilian Defense two part-time amateurs, each immersed with many other activities, and neither with any gift for organization. With the outbreak of war it became clear that this situation could no longer be tolerated. But it is simply not in the President to make an admission of error. Instead, he leaves as head of OCD a man who clearly ought not to have anything to do with it, and brings in another—Dean James M. Landis—as "executive" at a salary of \$10,000 a year. The objections are clear. If Mr. LaGuardia is to be shorn of power, his position becomes silly. If the two men are to have "co-equal power," we have another Knudsen-Hillman situation. The muddle of civilian defense remains unimproved.—Condensed from Mr. Kent's Syndicated Column.

service board, explained he had been in jail.

"Are you opposed to fighting in a war?" he was asked.

"I used to be," he said, "but I ain't no more. I read a history book while I was in jail. Now I'm willin' to fight."—UP dispatch.

DEMOCRACY

The democratic approach calls for less brave dying and more brave living.—SAMUEL GRAFTON.

How to Prevent War Jitters

For those who may feel an attack coming on, Dr. G. Kirby Collier, an eastern psychiatrist, gives these constructive suggestions:

"Do not try to evade reality through the use of alcohol.

"Keep up your interest in your work of today and meet the demands of every emergency.

"Welcome new ideas and experiences. Action is necessary to happiness.

"Do not talk to others of fear or of any nervousness you may have.

"Let us, as Americans, learn from the experience of our English friends to look at facts and situations as they are. Let us recognize our duty and responsibility toward self, not exaggerating any one part.

"Cultivate the habit of looking on the bright side of every experience."

EDUCATION

One of the tragedies of being a teacher is that one is outgrown by one's pupils.—JOHN ANDREWS RICE, *Harper's*.

" "

Acquiring and administering an education in British Isles these days is rather strenuous business, as indicated by this comment from Headmaster of Carlisle Grammar school, in Scotland:

"By the time a boy has had his gas mask inspected, received his ear-plugs and milk, and taken to his air raid shelter for practice, and has been weighed and measured for his supplementary clothing coupons, there is barely time to collect his war savings and have him inoculated before he goes to catch the bus home.

"Then the headmaster can settle down to collect the milk bottles, add up the accounts, fill out innumerable forms and prepare testimonials for the Royal Air Force entrants from the school. . . ."—*Toronto (Ont.) Star*.

FREEDOM

Freedom hurried down the street,
Edging thru the crowd,
Former lovers, passing by,
Neither spoke nor bowed.

Having known the lady well,
Men forsook her arms—
Beauty, overlong possessed,
Loses all its charms.

—CHARLES G. CRELLIN, *The American Mercury*, 1-'42.

HEALTH

As a nation we've been going soft; well on our way to becoming a country of beauty-rested sissies. How many of us can run around the block without puffing? How many of us can work a full, hard day without using up our last ounce of energy? We've long prided ourselves on our comfortable life. Perhaps it has been too comfortable.—DR. VICTOR G. HEISER, *RN, A Journal for Nurses*, 12-'41.

JAPAN—Overpopulation

The average Japanese has never heard of the idea that Japan must expand because the country is overpopulated. That was an idea carefully cultivated for foreign consumption by Japanese diplomats. Japanese like to be crowded; like to live in chummy intimacy with each other. . . . Nearly half a century ago they were given an opportunity to emigrate to Formosa without leaving the protection of the Japanese flag. Few went.—CARL CROW, "Why Fear Drives the Japanese," *Liberty*, 1-10-'42.

LAWYERS—Fees

A good-looking young man came into Clarence Darrow's office one time and asked Darrow to defend him against a charge of robbery. Darrow inquired when he could get a portion of his fee. "I can get some money for you tonight," replied the young man. "No-oo," murmured Darrow, "I don't care to accept money that has been stolen—so recently."—IRVING STONE, *Clarence Darrow for the Defense*, (Doubleday, Doran, \$3).

LIES, LYING

William M. Evarts, the distinguished lawyer and statesman, was once riding on a Pullman car with a friend who found it difficult to sleep on trains. The friend asked whether it was best to lie on the right side or the left side.

"If you are on the right side, my friend," said the brilliant lawyer, "it usually isn't necessary to lie at all."—*Detroit News*.

The Passing of the American Millionaire

By EDNA FERBER

Although great fortunes may be foredoomed to legend, the lush period of the 'eighties, glittering with newly-made millionaires, has an inherent fascination as the background of EDNA FERBER's leading fiction best-seller, Saratoga Trunk. (Doubleday, Doran, \$2.50). Like the author's Cimarron, Show Boat, and So Big, Saratoga Trunk is a novel of America, the strength of its people, the glamour of its past. The story is that of rangy, vengeful CLINT MAROON and the New Orleans beauty, CLIO DULAIN, who joined forces in a career of unscrupulous adventure to rob the robber barons. Prologue and Epilogue show the aging Maroons, aware of a new era, attempting to rend the mantle of beneficence shielding the accumulation of the 90 millions they are giving back to their country. Reporters listen dubiously as CLINT MAROON says:

"What did I do for my country! Stole millions from millionaires who were stealing each other blind. They called us financiers. Financiers hell! We were a gang of racketeers that would make these apes today look like kids stealing turnips out of a garden patch. We stole a whole country—land, woods, rivers, metal. They've got our pictures in the museums. We ought to be in the rogues' gallery. . . . I'm giving up my money now because I robbed widows and orphans to get it. That was considered smart in those days. I've outwitted and outlived the whole snivel-

ing lot of them—Gould, and Vanderbilt and Rockefeller and Morgan and Fisk and Drew. We skimmed a whole nation—took the cream right off the top. . . .

"Damn it, it's all true I tell you! I just want you to write it—to write it so that Americans will know that this country today is finer and more honest and more free and democratic than it has been since way back in Revolutionary days. For a century we big fellows could grab and run. They can't do it today. It's going to be the day of the little man. Tell him to have faith and believe that they're the best Americans in the decenter government the world has ever seen. We're just coming out of the darkness.

"Another quarter century of grabbers like us and there wouldn't have been a decent stretch of forest or soil or waterway that hadn't been divided among us. Museums and paintings and libraries—that was our way of trying to make peace with our conscience. I'm the last of the crowd that had all four feet in the trough and nothing to stop 'em. We're getting along toward a real democracy now and don't let anybody tell you different. These will be known as the good new days and those were the bad old days. The time's coming when there'll be no such thing as a multi-millionaire in America, and no such thing as a pauper. You'll live to see it but I won't. That'll be a real democracy."

LITERATURE—Payment for

James Whitcomb Riley once attended a party at which were present a number of would-be literary people. One budding author, a young woman whose success had been considerably less than sensational, was bemoaning the poor prices paid in the literary field.

"Of course, Mr. Riley," she said somewhat enviously, "you have no reason to complain. You must be a very rich man. I understand you get \$1 a word."

"Ye-e-es, madam," drawled the poet, "I do. But sometimes I sit all day and can't think of a single word."—*Chicago Daily News*.

MORALE

A good soldier's morale is something like a lady's virtue—you don't talk about it; but there has been so

much said about it recently that I want to add my bit. Above all, we must rid ourselves of the notion that morale is achieved by giving somebody something. Real morale is more readily achieved by depriving soldiers of something rather than by giving them something. . . . The knowledge that he is tough, hard-bitten, and able to take and inflict hard blows, gives the soldier morale, and the more he has to put up with things and overcome obstacles, the more it develops.—JOHN J. McCLOY, Ass't. Sec'y of War, *Infantry Journal*.

" "

More than any other group, the women of a nation carry the delicate flower of morale in their hands. From them, as ever, must come the fragrance of a life worth fighting for. . . . It is no accident that the Winged Victory is a feminine figure.—From an Advertisement of the New York Dress Institute.

News of the New

AGRICULTURE: Chlorpicrin, a poison gas, added to certain soils, greatly increases yield small grains, sugar beets, according to tests by Harvey McLaughlin, Iowa State College.

New stone-picking machine removes 12 tons rock per hour; cheap rehabilitation of stony land.

ERSATZ MATERIALS: Substitute leather, made from nylon, is strong, pliable, readily worked.

Redwood overcoat may be next. Pacific Lbr. Co., has patented process combining fiber of tree bark and sheep's wool. Saves 15 to 60% of wool.

INVENTION: How are you on "thinking up" inventions? U. S. will welcome practical ideas to win the war. Address: Nat'l Inventors Council, Dep't of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Timely: A "blackout doll." Phosphorescent glow dispels child's fear in air raid.

No more blackboards or erasers! With "Scriptoscope" teacher, seated at desk, writes or sketches with wax pencil on roll of cellophane stretched across 10" lens. Beam of light thru lens, intercepted by mirrors, projected on screen facing students.

MEDICINE: Gas from anti-freeze chemical, propylene glycol, found effective in killing influenza germ. Harmless to humans in concentration necessary to destroy virus.

Death rate goes up when business is good, according to study made by Institute of Life Insurance. They think overexertion may be factor.

PRODUCTION: War—Defense plants now protected by invisible infrared rays and batteries of photoelectric cells. Intruders detected by broken light rays which set off alarm.

RADIO: English stations now have secret method permitting them to remain on air during raids, without putting enemy bombers on beam.

Radio equipped walking stick for watchmen. Push of button sends wireless signal to set off alarm, warn other guards or notify police.

SCIENCE: U. of Calif. physicists have isolated one of "missing" chemical elements—No. 61. Only remaining element in periodic scale is No. 87.

MUSIC—Ignorance

Oscar Levant recently appeared in St. Louis as soloist with the St. Louis Symphony. He was traveling on such a tight schedule that when he finished the last number on the program, Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," he had only half an hour or so to catch the train to Pittsburgh where he was to appear next day. The applause was enthusiastic and Mr. Levant was called back again and again. Attempting to beg off giving an encore he held up his hand for silence and said, "I have to catch a train." But the applause continued until he finally broke down and played a brief Gershwin prelude. A St. Louis music critic reported the next day as follows: "For an encore, Mr. Levant played one of those nostalgic melodies of Gershwin, 'I have to Catch a Train.'"—"The Talk of the Town," *The New Yorker*, 12-13-'41.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES—

Jews

Since Jews are the only persons permitted to leave occupied countries, many non-Jews claim Jewish blood, don the identifying arm band, in hope of eventually being allowed to leave.

PRAYER—Praying

Severance Tool Co., makers of precision instruments, Los Angeles, start work each morning with a brief prayer:

"Almighty God, our Father, grant us the strength and skill to make these tools in increasing number . . . grant that they will bring victory over the enemies of democracy. . . ."

PREACHERS—Preaching

A preacher once said he had been preaching twenty years and no one had ever gone away angry or come around to challenge his message. An elder minister answered, "Of course not. No one ever challenges an echo."

—CHARLES F. BANNING in his sermon "The Withered Hand," reprinted in *The Pulpit Digest*, 1-'42.

A minister in a certain town in Alabama took permanent leave of his congregation in the following manner:

"Brothers and sisters, I come to say good-bye. I don't think God loves this church, because none of you ever die. I don't think you love each other, because I never marry any of you. I don't think you love me, because you have not paid my salary. Your donations are moldy fruit and wormy



Scrap-iron famine so pressing that ships carrying war materiel may bring return cargoes of scrap from battlefields. . . . Gov't welcomes donations, but will not officially sponsor "Penny-a-Plane" clubs. . . . Movement to close business letters, "Yours for Victory." . . . Slim chance for \$25-a-plate Jackson Day dinners this year; administration fears reaction.

While Kokomo, Ind., Ministerial Ass'n asks "same preferential rating as physicians" Rev. Curtis Wagner, Chattanooga, Tenn., makes pastoral calls with horse and buggy. But horse and mule men say comeback trail will be hard pull for Dobbin. Shortage of vehicles. Farmers can't get men to operate horse-drawn implements. City deliveries by wagon too costly, except as last resort.

Realtors in defense areas urge persons living on pensions, fixed incomes, to vacate homes as patriotic service; move to non-defense communities. . . . Office of Civilian Defense warns against petty rackets preying on fears of air-raid conscious. Don't buy sandbags, gas masks or any defense item from canvassers. . . . Mfrs. of rubber nipples and rubber pants for babies hope for priority ratings. But safety-pins will be scarce.

Ole's Waffle Shop, Oakland, Calif., has new sign: "Our slogan: 'I Don't Hate Anyone' Temporarily Discontinued." . . . Slapstick movies burlesquing army, navy life are out.

Hides of ill-fated Ringling elephants are being tanned for costly luggage.

Three spectacular events: New Orleans *Mardi Gras*, Indianapolis 500-mile *Speedway Race*, Memphis *Cotton Carnival* cancelled "for the duration." The kids' annual *Soap Box Derby* is also out.

apples, and 'by their fruits ye shall know them.'

"Brethren, I am going away to a better place. I have been called to be chaplain of a penitentiary. 'Where I go ye cannot come, but I go to prepare a place for you,' and may the Lord have mercy on your souls. Good-bye."—*The Reformatory Pillar*, 1-7-'42.

RELIGION

Why do people take their children to the circus but send them to Sunday School?—*The Watchman-Examiner*.

SUCCESS

Success isn't what we plan for ourselves; it comes from what we give others from ourselves.—Quoted in an article by COURSN BLACK, "Hobby Inspiration," *Good Business*, 11-41.

Vitamins for Victory

Every farmer who can possibly do so is being urged to have a garden where he can produce vegetables and fruit for home use. This will result in a gain of 1,300,000 farm gardens over last year. . . . Community and school gardens will also be encouraged . . . to supply food to underprivileged families and to school cafeterias. . . .

The plowing up of lawns, parks and golf courses is considered neither necessary nor desirable. Nor is it recommended that city back yards and other small tracts unsuitable to vegetable gardening be spaded up for food production, as was done in 1917. Ornamentals may well continue to occupy the attention of city dwellers and suburbanites. Such persons need not feel that they are being unpatriotic. It is recognized that there is great morale value in growing flowers and other ornamentals.—ANDREW S. WING, *Nature Magazine*, 1-42.

TAXES

I deem it a serious error that, for purposes of tax, income is defined by the lawyer, and not by the economist. Here is a family composed of father, mother and three children. The lawyer sees an income of 1000 pounds. The economist sees five incomes of 200 pounds. The nation follows the lawyer, who . . . leads it to the abyss of depopulation. I suggest the remedy: assess taxable incomes per head of the persons who actually live on them, so that, for instance, an income of 1000 pounds would be taxed: for a bachelor, as one income for 1000 pounds; for a childless married couple, as two incomes of 500 pounds; for a married couple with three children, as five incomes of 200 pounds.—DON SALVADOR de MADARIAGA, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, in a Letter to *The London Times*.

American Scene

The Japanese Army

This little item appeared in The New Yorker March 5, 1938, thus it can hardly be counted a contemporaneous bit. However, the subject matter gives it special interest at this time.

The Japanese army is listed in the Manhattan telephone directory—"Japanese Army, 1775 Broadway, Circle 7-4466." We didn't find this out until last week, but the minute we did, we dropped everything and hurried around to investigate. We found the Japanese army firmly entrenched on the sixth floor of the General Motors building—a modest office suite with no sentry or receptionist. We entered and found ourself looking across a waist-high partition and gate into a biggish room in which a half-dozen Japanese, all in mufti, were engaged in some sort of clerical work. One, a short, dark gent with horn-rimmed glasses and hair parted in the middle, got up and came toward us. We introduced ourself and asked why the Japanese army had a New York office. "You go do this up?" he asked. We said yes, we'd like to write a piece about it. "No true" he said in rather a heated tone. "You think we only army with office? Hah, you not know all armies have office in New York? Go, go learn others, then have purpose do this up." He thereupon turned from us and went into the inner office, followed by all his colleagues.

This sudden retreat left us in complete command of the field, but uncertain as to whether or not the interview was at an end. . . . For a moment we caught excited mumbling from the inner office, then this stopped and there was complete Oriental

quiet. We were almost on the point of going away when we noticed that the inner office door was ajar and that a man was peeking at us. We motioned for him to come out, and he did, somewhat hesitantly. This was another army man, tall and slender, with thin hair and no eyebrows. We asked if we might see the general. "No general" he said, smiling and showing pale gums. "One lieutenant-colonel, two major." We asked if we could see the lieutenant colonel, whereupon he withdrew again to the inner office. He returned with news that the lieutenant-colonel was "bissy with friend." So were both the majors. "All time bissy with friend" he said, with another pale smile that hardly seemed to include us as a friend. Why, we asked, getting back to the original point, did the Japanese army have an office in New York? "You know" he said slowly, "the purchases. We inspect." All of them? we asked. "All." Where? "Here." To whom was the New York office of the Japanese army responsible, the Japanese consulate? He shook his head, arching what could have been his eyebrows. The embassy? "No." The Emperor? "No. . . . Yes." With that, the second Japanese army man who ever came into our life grinned, backed away, and disappeared into the inner office. Again all was quiet as a Japanese flower garden, so we left.

We snooped around the General Motors building a bit and learned that the Japanese army has been a tenant for about seven years. It's the irritated opinion of several of the building employees that the army can speak perfectly good English if it wants to. Nobody, not even the postman or the superintendent, has been in the inner office.

WAR—Aftermath

In a railroad car compartment a German officer was expounding over what a blessing it was for Norway that the Germans had come.

"And when the war is over," continued the German, "we'll withdraw and you will get your country back again. . . ."

"We have no doubt about that," said an elderly gentleman seated in

the corner. "But what would happen if you fellows should win?"—*He Who Laughs—Lasts!* Ed. and publ. by HANS OLAV and TOR MYKEBOST.

WAR—Weapons

The army has a new rifle which fires so rapidly, they say, that it shoots eight times before you realize that you didn't know it was loaded.—*Chanute Field Wings*, 12-30-41.

GENS FROM Yesteryear

The Man Who Came Back

By TOM MASSON

Perhaps no American humorist contributed so long—so much—and so well—to periodicals of his era, and yet remained virtually unknown to the reading public as did Tom Masson. Mr. Masson was a power on the old LIFE; later joined SATURDAY EVENING POST. He was born in 1866; died in 1934. This selection is from "A Corner in Women" (Moffat, 1905).

Henry Bilkins had been dead exactly ten years when, under the new method discovered by the president of a Society of Psychical Research, he found he could come back. . . . He walked down the street to his old office, entered—and faced his eldest son, Arthur.

There was a moment of excitement. Then they sat down calmly and talked it over. Arthur was now married, and the business—well, business wasn't quite as good as it had been, and there were certain babies. . . .

"Don't let me disturb you, my boy" said Henry Bilkins presently. "I'm going around to renew some old ties. By the way, how's your mother?"

Arthur's face changed. "Mother's all right, sir" he said. "I'll take you to see her. Er - perhaps we'd best make an appointment."

Henry called on Gadsby, with whom he'd played golf once a week for years. "I'd love to play with you this afternoon" said Gadsby, "but—well, I have an engagement with Perkins. Tomorrow? One with Hopkins. Perhaps some day next week."

Bilkins called in turn on Whittier, Dimpleton, and the president of his old bank. At five o'clock he returned to his son's office. "Arthur" he said slowly, "no one wants me here. My old friends have forgotten me. So, I'm going away again. But there's one thing. I know, of course, your mother's married. I saw it in your face. But I'd like to see her. Can you arrange it, my boy?"

"I - I'm afraid it wouldn't be advisable" said Arthur at length. "You see, she married a man who—well, he needs regulating. She holds you up to him as a model. Now, father, you see what would happen if—"

"I understand" said Bilkins, with a wave of his hand. "Those new cars that pass here go to the cemetery, don't they? I'm on my way, Arthur. Don't worry." He was gone.

Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

Until war broke out the Japanese exported their own high grade rice and imported a cheaper variety for their own consumption. Gosh, those scoundrels can't even be decent to themselves.—WM. RITT, Syndicated Feature, *You're Telling Me!*

"I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE"

LIONEL BARRYMORE

This concerns a windy day, a double-decker bus, and a girl in a short skirt.

Seated on the top deck, the little lady was not concerned with what the wind did to her skirt until a robust Scot took a seat from which he could observe her. Then she struggled valiantly to keep her knees covered, although each time she pulled her skirt into a properly demure position a gust of wind would toss it back again.

After several minutes of battle between the girl and the wind, during which she grew progressively angry and frustrated, the Scot said abruptly:

"Dinna fuss y'self, lassie. Dinna fuss y'self. Drink's my weakness."
—*Liberty*.

An elderly Norwegian gentleman in Oslo entered a restaurant where a number of German officers were dining. Although the day was clear the old man had an umbrella. Upon seeing this, the Germans nudged one another and laughed, and the old fellow heard them say "Chamberlain." When he had finished his dinner, the old man arose to leave. As he neared the door he climbed on a chair, opened his umbrella, and jumped down, shouting "Rudolph Hess."

There was no laughter as he withdrew.—*The Journal of Education*.

The radio salesman found the elderly farmer pitching hay in the barn. "How do you do, sir?" he began. "I want to introduce you to a brand new type of radio. It operates on batteries, and you can take it with you wherever you go, and—"

The farmer cupped his ear. "Eh?" he queried, "I can't hear you."

The salesman repeated.

"Sorry, son," drawled the farmer. "But I can't hear a word you say."

The salesman gulped. "All I said was this:" he screamed. And another repetition.

The farmer shook his head and grunted, "No, siree, I don't need no radio. My wife plays the harmonica."

The salesman, hoarse from shouting, climbed back into his car; drove four miles to the nearest neighbor; knocked on the door of this farmhouse. A woman answered.

"Pardon me, lady," the salesman began. "But I have here a new type of radio and—"

The woman scowled. "Not interested, mister," she interrupted. "And, besides, I heard you the first time!"

—MARK HELLINGER, *Sunday Herald American*.

WISECRACKS of the Week

Which'd you rather—taxes or Axis?—*Cleveland Press*.

Laughter is a shock absorber. He who laughs—lasts.—*Kitchener (Ont.) Record*.

Tip to Strikers—It will never get well if you picket.—*Sales Management*.

Diplomacy is cutting the other fellow's throat without using a knife.

He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth—but he's never made much stir with it.—*HARRY RITT*.

Prophet—A man who tells you what is going to happen but doesn't bet any money on it.—*Northwestern Banker*.

Hans and Fritz were discussing conditions in their fatherland. "Der Fuehrer," said Hans, "has done great work. We now haf more living space than ever."

"Iss dot so?" asked Fritz. "Vy—because we haf more land?"

"No," was the retort. "Because we have less soldiers."—*WALTER WINCHELL* in his Syndicated Column, *On Broadway*.

